

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
EXTENSION SERVICE
Washington 25, D. C.

September 21, 1951

17,000,000 FAMILIES RAISING GARDENS THIS YEAR,
RIVALING V-GARDENS OF WORLD WAR II

V-Garden Top Estimated at 20,600,000;
About Half of U. S. Families Expect to Can

By GEORGE GALLUP
Director, American Institute of Public Opinion

PRINCETON, N. J., July 27--With the price of food at an all-time high, nearly two out of every five American families this summer are going to a habit much publicized during World War II.

They're raising their own vegetable gardens.

Even after the beetles, grubs and other pests get their share, the resulting crop of beans, beets, carrots, cabbages, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce and other garden-green delicacies should be enormous, for an estimated 17 million families are cultivating family garden plots.

The family hoe-and-rake brigade this year compares favorably in numbers with the war years. At the peak of the Victory Garden program--in 1943--an estimated 20,600,000 families said they raised home gardens.

This year's number has just been determined in a nation-wide survey by the American Institute of Public Opinion in which a balanced cross-section of families throughout the nation were asked:

"Do you have a vegetable garden for home use this year?"

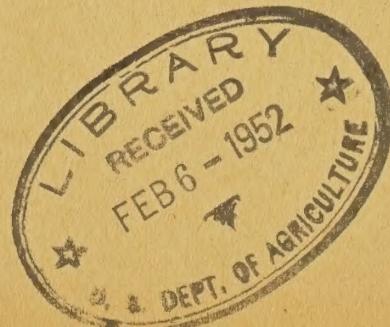
The results:

Yes, have a garden	39%
No, have not	61
	<u>100%</u>

During the war the size of garden plots ranged from an average of about 20 x 25 feet in large cities to as much as half an acre in farm and rural areas.

This year, as during World War II, the Department of Agriculture is doing all it can to encourage family gardens.

* * *



The Canning Brigade

Housewives who plan to can fruits or vegetables this summer, or have already done so, will have plenty of company.

Nearly half (46 percent) of all families, the Institute survey finds, expect to put up jars of fruit and vegetables either from their own gardens or from produce bought at markets and roadside stands.

A substantial proportion also expect to lay away fruits and vegetables in the deep freeze for family use during the winter months when fresh fruits and greens become scarcer.

Statistically here's how the home canning and freezing activities line up at present:

"Do you (your wife) expect to can any fruit or vegetables this year?"

Yes	46%
No	50
Not certain	4
	<u>100%</u>

"Do you (your wife) expect to freeze any fruit or vegetables this year?"

Yes	16%
No	79
Not certain	5
	<u>100%</u>

Supplementary Information

A supplementary statement from the American Institute of Public Opinion contains a breakdown of the above data on a farm and non-farm basis.

According to the 1950 Census there are roughly the following number of families (dwelling units) in the United States:

Farm	6,000,000
Non-farm	39,000,000
Total	45,000,000

Applying the respective percentages to these figures we have the following round numbers:

Families With Gardens

	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>
Farm	82	5,000,000
Non-farm	31	12,000,000
Total	39	17,000,000

Families Expecting to Can

Farm	80	5,000,000
Non-farm	41	16,000,000
Total	46	21,000,000

Families Expecting to Freeze

Farm	44	2,500,000
Non-farm	12	4,500,000
Total	16	7,000,000

